53605-2

Maryland Monthly Labor Review

JANUARY, 1994

Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development
Office of Labor Market Analysis and Information
1100 North Eutaw Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

William Donald Schaefer, Governor
Mark L. Wasserman, Secretary

LABOR FORCE DEVELOPMENTS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE

After reaching record highs, both the labor force and employment began to downsize following months of seasonal expansion. Employment retreated in January, increasing the number of jobless workers and pushing the unemployment rate up from 5.8 percent in December to 6.4 percent in January. Following seasonal adjustment, the statewide jobless increase was minimized to just 0.2 percentage points, yielding an adjusted rate of 6.2 percent in January.

Nationally, a much sharper increase in joblessness was reported, with the unadjusted rate rising by more than a full percentage point to 7.3 percent in January.

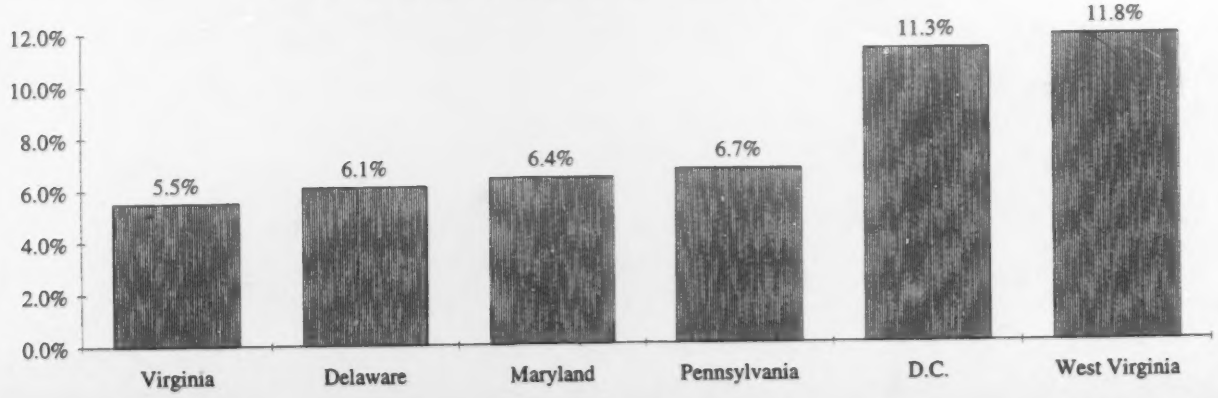
Sizable employment reductions are typical for January, with post-holiday and weather-related layoffs contributing to job loss. During January, the number of employed fell by about 17,400 persons to 2,488,851. Unlike in prior years, very few people left the labor force, shifting the burden of these cutbacks on the unemployment rolls. Unemployment moved up by 16,430 persons in January, raising the jobless count to 170,366.

	Unadjusted		Seasonally Adjusted	
	January 1994	December 1993	January 1994	December 1993
Civilian Labor Force	2,659,217	2,660,165	2,689,922	2,682,769
Total Employment	2,488,851	2,506,229	2,523,676	2,521,117
Total Unemployment	170,366	153,936	166,246	161,652
Unemployment Rate	6.4	5.8	6.2	6.0
National Unemployment Rate	7.3	6.0	6.7	6.4

Beginning this month, the state's labor force estimates will also be released in a seasonally adjusted form. Seasonal adjustment smoothes out the data series by eliminating the sharp fluctuations caused by seasonal events which follow a more or less regular pattern each year.

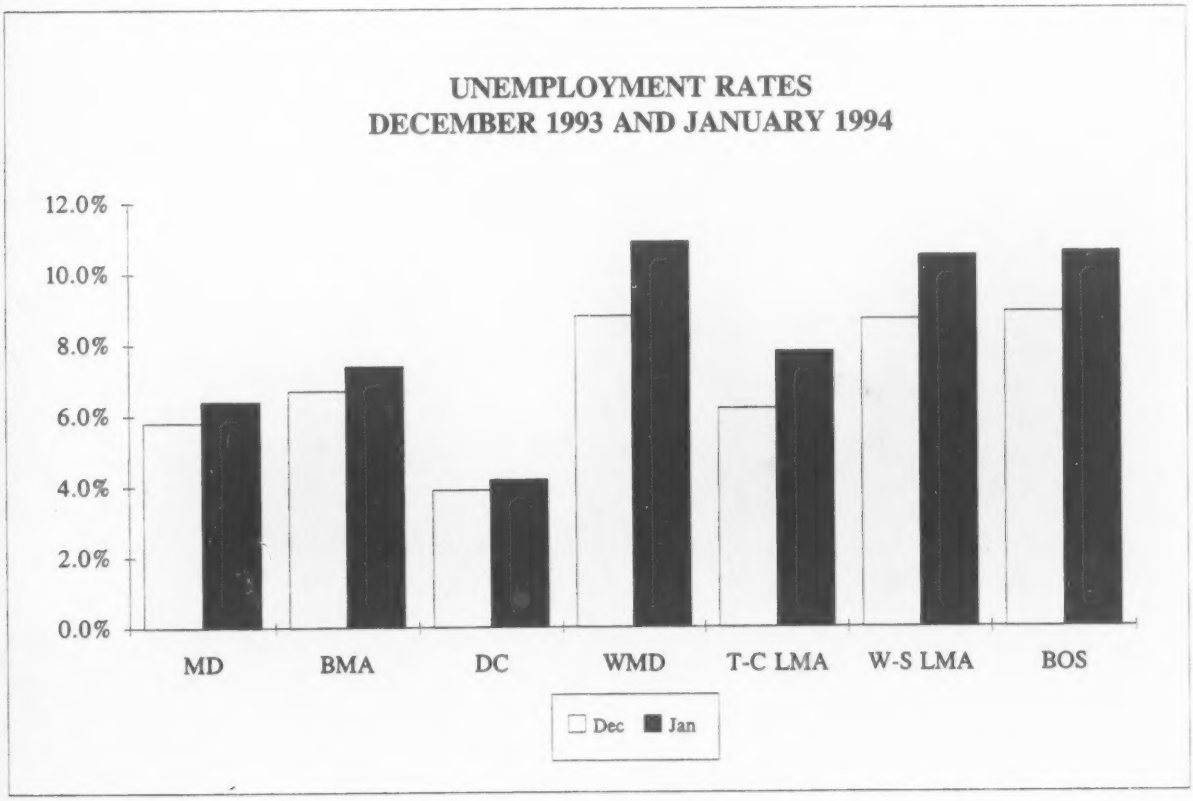
Also, in January 1994, the process for computing labor force statistics has been changed to reflect new data collection procedures and improved techniques for labor force estimation developed by the U.S. Department of Labor. These improvements, coupled with changes in definition/measurement, have substantially affected some estimates. The January estimates were also affected by the incorporation of 1990 census based population estimates.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN NEIGHBORING STATES--JANUARY 1994



TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - MARYLAND AND REGIONS

	JANUARY 1994		DECEMBER 1993	
	NUMBER	RATE	NUMBER	RATE
MARYLAND	170,366	6.4	153,936	5.8
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA	89,115	7.4	81,302	6.7
MARYLAND'S D.C. SUBURBS	46,683	4.2	44,360	3.9
WESTERN MARYLAND	12,533	10.9	9,981	8.8
TALBOT-CAROLINE LMA	2,513	7.8	2,029	6.2
WICOMICO-SOMERSET LMA	5,922	10.5	4,918	8.7
BALANCE OF STATE	13,601	10.6	11,344	8.9



REGIONAL ECONOMICS

Data for regional and area unemployment rates beginning with January 1994 are affected by improved estimation and survey techniques introduced at the state level by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. These changes caused an increase in the number of individuals reported as being unemployed between December 1993 and January 1994. Users are cautioned that unemployment rates from January 1993 are not strictly comparable with January 1994 unemployment rates due to these changes.

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA

The Baltimore Metropolitan Area reported a regional unemployment rate of 7.4 percent for January. Within the region, Baltimore City's rate was the highest at 10.8 percent, while Howard County's was the lowest at 3.8 percent. Seasonal employment reductions and a slow economic recovery were responsible for rising unemployment throughout the region during January.

MARYLAND'S D.C. SUBURBS

Maryland's DC suburbs reported the state's lowest regional unemployment rate at 4.2 percent in January. A strong regional economy has helped the area maintain a highly stable employment base. Montgomery County had the lowest unemployment for both the region and the state at 3.3 percent, followed by Charles County at 3.8 percent. Prince George's was the only county in the state with less unemployed workers in January than in December of 1993, causing January's rate to ebb slightly to 4.7 percent.

WESTERN MARYLAND

In Western Maryland, colder than usual winter weather resulted in the state's highest regional unemployment rate of 10.9 percent for January. Washington County experienced major manufacturing layoff activity, resulting in an unemployment rate of 9.6 percent. In both Allegany and Garrett counties, jobless rates hit double-digits at 12.0 percent and 14.5 percent, respectively.

TALBOT-CAROLINE LMA

The Talbot-Caroline LMA reported a regional unemployment rate of 7.8 percent for January. Caroline County's rate, at 8.3 percent, was the highest, representing 1,241 unemployed residents.

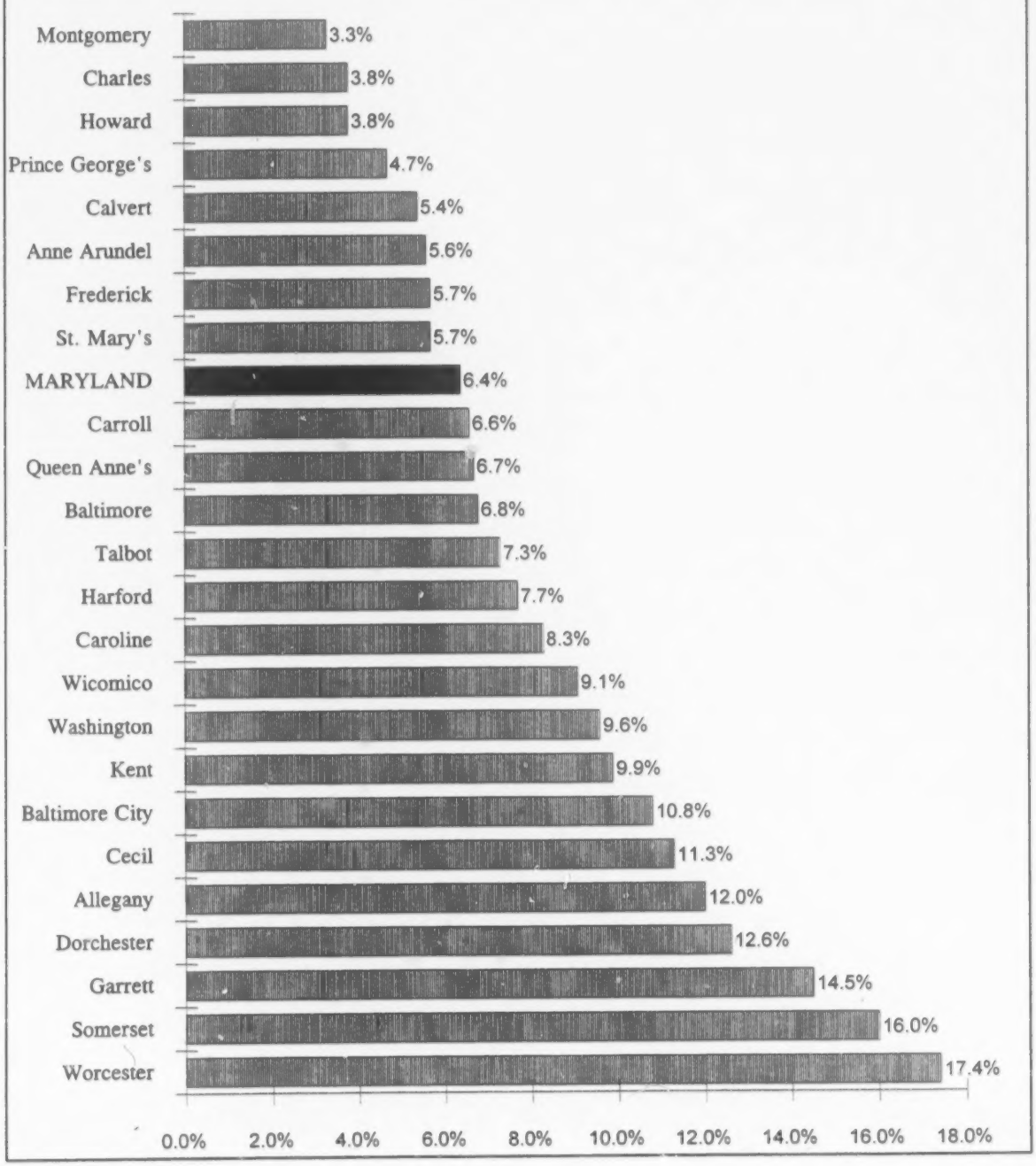
WICOMICO-SOMERSET LMA

Seasonal employment reductions and layoff activity resulted in a regional unemployment rate of 10.5 percent in January for the Wicomico-Somerset LMA. Somerset County's rate, at 16.0 percent, topped the regional average while Wicomico's, at 9.1 percent, was more than a full percentage point below that of the labor market area.

BALANCE OF STATE

Seasonal employment reductions on the Eastern Shore contributed to a regional unemployment rate of 10.6 percent for January 1994. St. Mary's County in Southern Maryland, which is stabilized by defense related employment, had the region's lowest unemployment rate of 5.7 percent. Worcester County's rate, at 17.4 percent, was the highest in both the region and the state.

LOCAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES--JANUARY 1994



Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development
Office of Labor Market Analysis and Information
1100 North Eutaw Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

STATE OF MARYLAND
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE
JANUARY 1994

AREA	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	JANUARY	DECEMBER*	JANUARY	DECEMBER*	JANUARY	DECEMBER*	JAN.	DEC.*	JAN.1993
MARYLAND	2,659,217	2,660,165	2,488,851	2,506,229	170,366	153,936	6.4	5.8	6.5
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA	1,205,467	1,205,195	1,116,352	1,123,893	89,115	81,302	7.4	6.7	7.5
BALTIMORE CITY	318,142	318,205	283,849	285,767	34,293	32,438	10.8	10.2	10.2
ANNE ARUNDEL	224,450	224,810	211,988	213,420	12,462	11,390	5.6	5.1	5.9
BALTIMORE	365,947	367,090	341,187	343,492	24,760	23,598	6.8	6.4	7.0
CARROLL	68,256	66,982	63,742	64,173	4,514	2,809	6.6	4.2	7.4
HARFORD	99,463	98,356	91,761	92,380	7,702	5,976	7.7	6.1	7.8
HOWARD	111,455	112,166	107,251	107,976	4,204	4,190	3.8	3.7	3.8
QUEEN ANNE'S	17,756	17,587	16,574	16,686	1,182	901	6.7	5.1	8.2
D. C. AREA	1,121,844	1,124,387	1,075,161	1,080,027	46,683	44,360	4.2	3.9	4.4
CALVERT	32,581	32,266	30,825	30,965	1,756	1,301	5.4	4.0	5.5
CHARLES	59,224	59,438	56,969	57,227	2,255	2,211	3.8	3.7	4.8
FREDERICK	94,109	92,583	88,778	89,180	5,331	3,403	5.7	3.7	6.1
MONTGOMERY	475,322	477,105	459,843	461,924	15,479	15,181	3.3	3.2	3.3
PRINCE GEORGE'S	460,607	462,996	438,746	440,731	21,861	22,265	4.7	4.8	5.0
WESTERN MARYLAND	115,111	113,612	102,578	103,631	12,533	9,981	10.9	8.8	10.7
ALLEGANY	34,674	33,613	30,529	30,336	4,145	3,277	12.0	9.7	12.2
GARRETT	13,768	13,942	11,767	12,156	2,001	1,786	14.5	12.8	13.6
WASHINGTON	66,669	66,057	60,282	61,139	6,387	4,918	9.6	7.4	9.3
TALBOT-CAROLINE LMA	32,347	32,775	29,834	30,746	2,513	2,029	7.8	6.2	8.0
CAROLINE	14,915	15,120	13,674	14,092	1,241	1,028	8.3	6.8	9.5
TALBOT	17,432	17,655	16,160	16,654	1,272	1,001	7.3	5.7	6.7
WICOMICO-SOMERSET LMA	56,230	56,292	50,308	51,374	5,922	4,918	10.5	8.7	9.3
SOMERSET	11,377	11,365	9,558	9,760	1,819	1,605	16.0	14.1	13.7
WICOMICO	44,853	44,927	40,750	41,614	4,103	3,313	9.1	7.4	8.2
BALANCE OF STATE	128,220	127,901	114,619	116,557	13,601	11,344	10.6	8.9	10.2
CECIL	39,164	38,129	34,740	34,969	4,424	3,160	11.3	8.3	9.7
DORCHESTER	16,387	16,413	14,325	14,757	2,062	1,656	12.6	10.1	12.5
KENT	10,117	10,033	9,119	9,347	998	686	9.9	6.8	9.1
ST. MARY'S	40,755	41,174	38,433	38,982	2,322	2,192	5.7	5.3	6.3
WORCESTER	21,797	22,152	18,002	18,502	3,795	3,650	17.4	16.5	17.4
UNITED STATES**	129,393,000	128,401,000	119,901,000	120,632,000	9,492,000	7,764,000	7.3	6.0	7.9

*Estimates for the state are revised.

**Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

NOTE: Figures may not add due to rounding. These are estimates relating to the week of the 12th of each month. The count is of persons not jobs. All data are not seasonally adjusted.

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS BY PLACE OF WORK

Seasonal reductions lowered the number of jobs on Maryland's industry payrolls as anticipated during January. Job losses were reported in every major industry line. In all, there were about 65,000 fewer jobs in January, a decline on par with pre-recessionary reports for the month. Even with this decline, the current job count, at 2,066,100, is more than 24,000 higher than last January's total.

Retail trade reported the largest losses during January, with reductions of 20,900 jobs accounting for nearly one-third of the overall industry decline. A major portion of the retail decline resulted from the termination of temporary Christmas positions in general merchandise, apparel and miscellaneous retail stores. The end of the holiday season lessened demand at restaurants and food stores, causing employers to trim their payrolls. Layoffs, of note, were also reported at building material and garden supply stores as winter weather caused business to decline.

The government sector started out the new year with about 14,000 fewer jobs—a decline resulting primarily from semester break activity at state universities and local community colleges. Education, when combined, accounted for about nine out of every ten jobs lost in the public sector during January. Other public sector losses over the month included postal employment which fell as workloads returned to normal following the Christmas delivery rush.

The services industry, also a relatively large contributor to January's downturn, dropped 13,100 jobs. Business services made the deepest cuts, with over one-third of the overall services' decline centered in this industry. Within business services, the demand for services provided by temporary help agencies, security firms, advertising agencies and data processing firms waned, causing employers to cut their staffing levels. Agricultural services was lower as usual this time of year and, with holiday functions over, hotels and amusements also reduced employment. In educational services, employment fell by an estimated 2,000 jobs as private colleges and universities began their mid-term breaks.

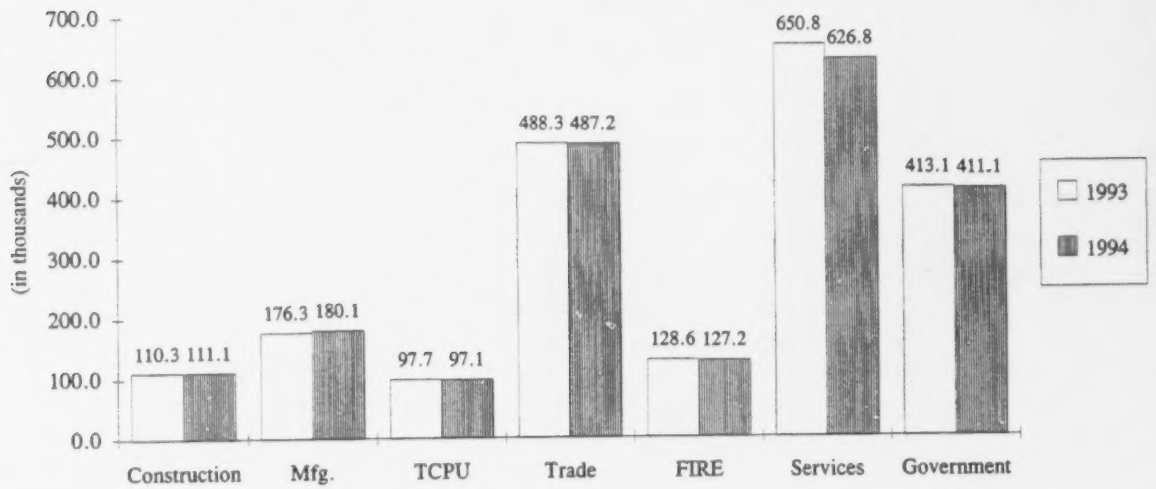
Seasonal declines also targeted the transportation industry. While layoff activity was reported in water and local transportation, post holiday reductions in trucking were largely responsible for the downturn in this industry sector. Meanwhile, employers in the finance, insurance, and real estate sector scaled back their payrolls by about 1,400 jobs, with layoffs in real estate accounting for about six out of every ten jobs lost in the combined industry group.

In the construction trades, the harsh weather conditions in January prompted a larger than anticipated employment loss. All phases of construction activity contracted, resulting in an overall industry decline of 10,300 jobs. Just over 57.0 percent of the overall industry decline, however, were centered in special trades.

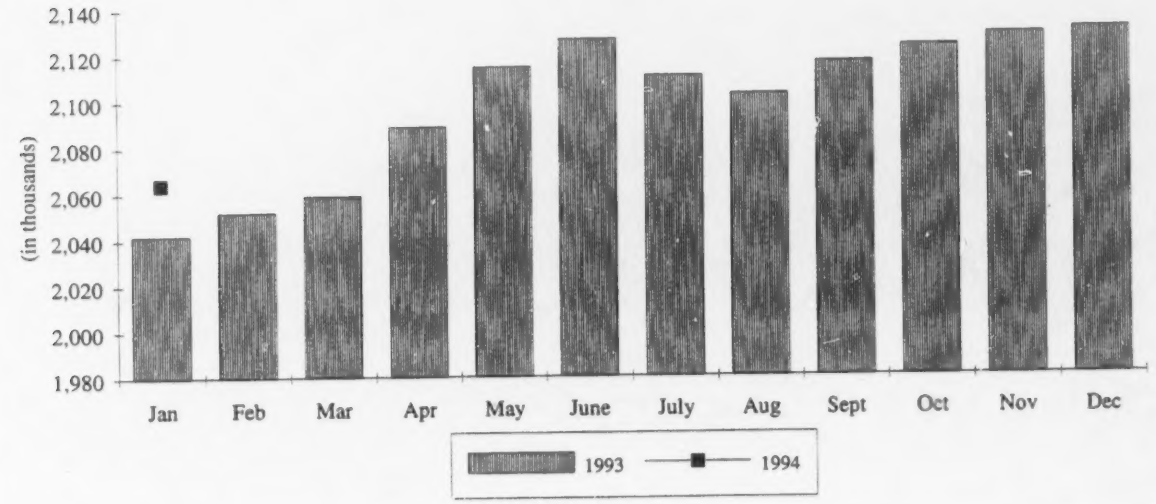
The manufacturing industry entered its fourth consecutive month of declining employment in January, reporting losses of about 2,200 jobs. Employment fell in a number of industries over the month, with declines of 300+ jobs reported in chemicals, printing, and food processing. Compared to a year ago, jobs in Maryland's manufacturing industries are nearly 4,000 fewer.

Declining demand also caused employers to cut work schedules. The average workweek fell to 41.0 hours, down by more than a full hour from December's schedule. This workweek reduction, when coupled with a drop in hourly payrates, lowered weekly earnings by about $18.50 to $531.77. In durable goods manufacturing, seven of the ten reporting industries experienced workweek reductions, causing overall hours in the durables component to fall from 43.7 hours in December to 42.6 hours in January. With overtime hours cut, production workers saw their weekly checks shrink by 2.5 percent to $591.29. In nondurable goods, where shortened workweeks were also reported, the average workweek, at 39.8 hours in January, fell below the 40.0 hour mark for the first time since June 1993. This reduction, along with a drop in hourly rates, caused weekly paychecks to tumble by more than $15.00 to $485.16 in January. Production workers in the printing industry were the most sorely affected by schedule and earnings reductions, losing 2.8 hours and $46.70 in weekly earnings.

MARYLAND NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY JANUARY 1993 AND JANUARY 1994



TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT JANUARY 1993 THROUGH JANUARY 1994



NOTE: Data are not seasonally adjusted.

MARYLAND
NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT* BY INDUSTRY
BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)
JANUARY 1994

Industry	January 1994	December** 1993	January 1993	Percent Change Janaay 1993-January 1994
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	2,066.1	2,130.9	2,041.7	1.2
Goods Producing	287.6	300.3	292.3	-1.6
Mining	1.0	1.1	1.1	-9.1
Construction	110.3	120.7	111.1	-0.7
Heavy Construction	11.2	14.1	11.5	-2.6
Manufacturing	176.3	178.5	180.1	-2.1
Durable Goods	86.3	86.8	88.5	-2.5
Lumber & Wood Products	3.7	3.7	3.6	2.8
Stone, Clay, & Glass Products	6.4	6.6	6.3	1.6
Concrete, Gypsum, Plaster	3.8	4.0	3.7	2.7
Other Stone, Clay, & Glass	2.6	2.6	2.6	0.0
Primary Metal Industries	8.5	8.5	9.2	-7.6
Blast Furnaces	6.9	6.9	7.5	-8.0
Fabricated Metal Products	8.3	8.4	8.5	-2.4
Fabricated Structural Metal Products	3.1	3.2	3.3	-6.1
Other Fabricated Metal Products (Inc.342,343,345-349)	4.4	4.4	4.4	0.0
Industrial Machinery	14.3	14.3	14.2	0.7
Refrigeration & Service Machinery	2.3	2.2	2.1	9.5
Other Industrial Machinery & Equipment (Inc. 352-357)	8.1	8.1	8.2	-1.2
Electronic Equipment	13.0	13.1	13.2	-1.5
Communications Equipment	5.0	5.0	4.6	8.7
Electronic Component	3.1	3.1	3.3	-6.1
Other Electronic Equipment	4.9	5.0	5.3	-7.5
Transportation Equipment	10.5	10.6	11.1	-5.4
Motor Vehicles	4.6	4.7	4.7	-2.1
Other Transportation (Inc. 372-375,379)	4.1	4.0	4.2	-2.4
Instruments & Related	16.3	16.3	17.4	-6.3
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	2.3	2.2	2.1	9.5
Nondurable Goods	90.0	91.7	91.6	-1.7
Food & Kindred Products	21.2	21.7	22.0	-3.6
Meat Products	5.1	5.1	5.5	-7.3
Beverages	3.9	4.0	3.9	0.0
Other Food & Kindred (Inc. 202-207)	7.5	7.7	8.1	-7.4
Textile Mill, Apparel	8.5	8.5	8.6	-1.2
Paper & Allied Products	8.5	8.6	9.0	-5.6
Printing & Publishing	27.3	27.8	27.4	-0.4
Chemicals and Allied Products	13.7	14.0	13.9	-1.4
Rubber & Miscellaneous Plastics	8.7	8.8	8.5	2.4

Industry	January 1994	December** 1993	January 1993	Percent Change January 1993-January 1994
Service Producing	1,778.5	1,830.6	1,749.4	1.7
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	97.7	100.1	97.1	0.6
Transportation	54.8	56.8	54.1	1.3
Railroad Transportation	3.0	3.0	3.1	-3.2
Trucking & Warehousing	28.0	29.3	27.7	1.1
Communications & Utilities	42.9	43.3	43.0	-0.2
Communications	26.8	27.1	26.6	0.8
Electric, Gas, Sanitary	16.1	16.2	16.4	-1.8
Trade	488.3	509.6	487.2	0.2
Wholesale Trade	100.6	101.0	99.9	0.7
Retail Trade	387.7	408.6	387.3	0.1
Building Materials, Garden Supplies	15.7	16.5	15.6	0.6
General Merchandise Stores	41.4	46.8	43.5	-4.8
Food Stores	64.5	66.5	62.2	3.7
Eating & Drinking Places	120.5	125.8	120.8	-0.2
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	128.6	130.0	127.2	1.1
Finance	59.2	59.6	57.2	3.5
Depository Institutions	38.6	38.9	38.6	0.0
Commercial Banks	25.0	25.2	25.5	-2.0
Insurance	36.1	36.3	36.7	-1.6
Insurance Carriers	24.2	24.3	24.3	-0.4
Real Estate	33.3	34.1	33.3	0.0
Services	650.8	663.9	626.8	3.8
Business Services	140.3	145.1	131.6	6.6
Health Services	179.4	179.8	173.1	3.6
Hospitals	81.5	81.9	81.3	0.2
Legal Services	15.6	15.6	15.2	2.6
Educational Services	37.1	39.1	36.9	0.5
Private Colleges, Universities	20.3	22.1	20.3	0.0
Total Government	413.1	427.0	411.1	0.5
Total Federal Government	132.5	134.3	135.1	-1.9
Total State & Local Government	280.6	292.7	276.0	1.7
Total State Government	94.1	98.2	91.4	3.0
State Education	31.7	36.3	30.9	2.6
Other State Government	62.4	61.9	60.5	3.1
Total Local Government	186.5	194.5	184.6	1.0
Local Education	112.6	120.1	111.7	0.8
Other Local Government	73.9	74.4	72.9	1.4

*The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.

NOTE: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding and exclusion of some SIC's.

Data are not seasonally adjusted.

**Estimates are revised.

Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT* BY INDUSTRY
BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)
BY REGION--JANUARY 1994

Industry	Baltimore Metropolitan Area		Maryland Portion D.C. Suburbs		Western Maryland		Eastern Shore-Southern Maryland	
	Jan. 1994	Dec. 1993**	Jan. 1994	Dec. 1993**	Jan. 1994	Dec. 1993**	Jan. 1994	Dec. 1993**
Total Nonagricultural Employment	1,073.1	1,107.0	758.8	780.5	91.3	94.6	138.1	142.7
Goods Producing	158.9	165.9	81.2	84.9	19.6	20.6	28.9	29.7
Mining	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.7	0.2	0.2
Construction	52.0	57.0	47.3	50.7	4.3	5.0	7.2	8.0
Manufacturing	106.8	108.7	33.7	34.0	14.7	14.9	21.5	21.5
Durable Goods	54.3	55.3	16.7	16.7	6.6	6.6	8.7	8.6
Nondurable Goods	52.5	53.4	17.0	17.3	8.1	8.3	12.8	12.9
Service Producing	914.2	941.1	677.6	695.6	71.7	74.0	109.2	113.0
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	52.4	53.7	31.3	31.6	5.1	5.2	8.1	8.2
Trade	244.9	255.9	183.6	191.1	23.7	24.6	33.7	35.6
Wholesale Trade	59.3	59.8	30.9	31.1	4.3	4.4	5.3	5.5
Retail Trade	185.6	196.1	152.7	160.0	19.4	20.2	28.4	30.1
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	72.6	73.3	47.0	47.7	3.2	3.3	4.8	4.9
Services	337.3	346.6	249.4	253.4	24.2	24.5	35.2	35.9
Total Government	207.0	211.6	166.3	171.8	15.5	16.4	27.4	28.4
Federal	48.3	48.7	74.9	75.6	1.7	1.7	6.8	6.8
State	67.6	68.5	17.6	19.5	4.8	5.1	5.5	6.4
Local	91.1	94.4	73.8	76.7	9.0	9.6	15.1	15.2

*The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.
**Estimates are revised.
Selected data below the major industry level is available upon request. Estimates are also available for Baltimore City.
Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

NOTE: Data are not seasonally adjusted.

HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN SELECTED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES
JANUARY 1994

Industry	Average Weekly Hours		Average Weekly Earnings		Average Hourly Earnings	
	Jan. 1994	Dec. 1993	Jan. 1994	Dec. 1993	Jan. 1994	Dec. 1993
MARYLAND						
Manufacturing	41.0	42.2	$531.77	$550.29	$12.97	$13.04
Durable Goods	42.6	43.7	591.29	606.56	13.88	13.88
Lumber and Wood Products	39.5	41.0	369.72	377.20	9.36	9.20
Stone, Clay, and Glass Products	41.9	44.6	504.48	544.12	12.04	12.20
Primary Metal Industries	44.0	44.3	777.04	781.01	17.66	17.63
Fabricated Metals	41.7	42.7	494.15	501.73	11.85	11.75
Industrial Machinery	45.2	45.0	638.68	633.15	14.13	14.07
Electronic Equipment	41.2	43.7	489.04	523.53	11.87	11.98
Transportation Equipment	43.5	45.6	764.30	805.30	17.57	17.66
Instruments and Related Products	39.3	40.5	536.45	558.90	13.65	13.80
Miscellaneous Manufacturing Industries	42.9	42.4	424.71	417.64	9.90	9.85
Nondurable Goods	39.8	40.9	485.16	504.30	12.19	12.33
Food and Kindred Products	40.6	42.1	470.96	487.52	11.60	11.58
Textile Mill, Apparel	36.0	37.2	288.72	301.69	8.02	8.11
Paper and Allied Products	40.5	40.7	536.22	538.05	13.24	13.22
Printing and Publishing	37.1	39.9	534.24	580.94	14.40	14.56
Chemicals and Allied Products	43.6	42.2	575.52	573.92	13.20	13.60
Rubber and Plastic Products	42.9	42.8	461.18	462.24	10.75	10.80
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA						
Manufacturing	41.8	42.8	$564.72	$581.22	$13.51	$13.58
Durable Goods	43.5	44.5	642.93	659.05	14.78	14.81
Nondurable Goods	40.2	41.3	494.86	512.95	12.31	12.42

NOTE: Data are not seasonally adjusted.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

	January 1994	December 1993	January 1993
Initial Claims	33,073	32,457	28,782
Weeks Claimed	249,505	189,210	237,089
First Payments	22,595	11,041	19,441
Final Payments	2,360	1,145	1,638
Weeks Paid	201,876	148,554	195,139
Net Benefit Amount	$36,024,284	$26,673,328	$34,923,539
Average Check Amount	$178.45	$179.55	$178.97

Seasonal layoffs caused the number of initial filings to rise over the month as expected, with January's gain marking the fourth consecutive increase in unemployment applications. Almost 33,100 initial claims were processed during January, an increase of 1.9 percent from December's filings. This upswing, while relatively small, was enough to push initial filings above last January's count of 28,782, marking the first time in almost a full year that initial claims were higher than year ago levels. The statewide increase was confined solely to the D.C. Suburban Area where claims filings were higher at each of the local unemployment offices within the region. About one-third of the regional upswing was tied to increased filing activity reported at the Wheaton local office. The number of weeks claimed also advanced during January to 249,505, an increase of 31.9 percent over December's total and 5.2 percent, or 12,416, higher than a year ago. Regionally, the largest gain, of more than 50.0 percent, occurred in the Balance of State Area.

About eight out of every ten weeks claimed, or 201,876 weeks, were paid during January, an increase of 35.9 percent from December's payments. First payments and final payments also increased substantially over the month. First payments, rising for the fourth consecutive month to 22,595, were more than 16.0 percent higher than the year ago total. Final payments climbed to 2,360 in January, their highest level since July 1992. Locally, higher numbers of final payments were reported by each of the unemployment offices with the exception of Grasonville.

For those claimants receiving benefits during January, payments were slightly lower at $178.45. While checks were smaller, th payment of an additional 53,322 checks in January raised the net payout by $9.3 million over the month to an estimated $36.0 million.

REGIONAL INDICATORS
JANUARY 1994

	BMA	DC Suburbs	Western Maryland	Balance of State
Initial Claims	16,032	7,751	4,301	4,988
Weeks Claimed	122,051	50,322	22,816	36,199
First Payments	11,090	4,038	2,802	3,806
Final Payments	1,286	532	94	259
Weeks Paid	98,951	40,609	19,316	30,382
Net Benefit Amount	$17,776,122	$7,739,523	$3,261,819	$4,819,702
Average Check Amount	$179.65	$190.59	$168.87	$158.64

Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development
Office of Labor Market Analysis and Information
1100 North Eutaw Street
Room 601
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

FIRST CLASS MAIL
Postage and Fees Paid
U.S. Department
of Labor
Permit No. G-738

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use $300

Congressional Information Service
Inc.
Att: SRI
Suite 800
4520 East West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814

ADDRESS CHANGE:

☐ Remove from mailing list

☐ Change as shown above

Please send any changes to the address in the upper left hand corner.